



The Pensacola Bay watershed contains a diverse array of natural resources. More than eighty percent of visitors come to the local area to experience our natural resources. In order to maintain the quality and natural beauty of our area, it is important that we understand the natural areas in our community. There are a number of upcoming events that will allow you to learn more about natural areas and recreational opportunities. Contacts for the following events are listed. For more information on natural resources, or to volunteer for upcoming events contact: Chris Verlinde, UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Sea Grant Extension (850) 623-3868 or christinav@co.santa-rosa.fl.us

March 4, 2006

Pensacola Junior College Forestry and Natural Resources Conclave

PJC Milton Campus

6:30 am until 4:00 pm

This is a fun- filled, family orientated event. Activities include: compass & pacing, knife throwing, axe throwing, pole felling, pulpwood throw, jack and jill cross-cut and more. Kids' activities include: softball toss, log rolling, face painting, crafts, visit from Smokey the Bear and more.

Natural resource displays from various agencies and organizations will be on hand. Come learn more about our local environment. A free tree giveaway will also take place!

In conjunction with the forestry conclave, a **Project Learning Tree (PLT)** curriculum workshop will take place March 4, from 9 am until 3 pm at the PJC Milton Campus, room 4308 for informal and formal educators. Project Learning Tree (PLT) is a multifaceted environmental education curriculum for grades K-12. PLT curriculum provides hands-on activities that are correlated to the Florida Sunshine State Standards.

Seating is limited for the PLT workshop, so register today by contacting Chris Verlinde, 850-623-3868 or christinav@co.santa-rosa.fl.us, or 850-623-3868.

March 15, 2006

A **Project WET Workshop** (free) is going to take place on Wednesday, March 15th at the Escambia County Extension Office (off Stefani Rd.), from 8-2P.M. (To register and get additional information, participants can email Linda Hartmann at: aherrin@bellsouth.net

March 25, 2006

**The Environmental Education Coordination Team
Announces the 6th annual
Seagrass Awareness Celebration!**



**March 25, 2006
Shoreline Park South, Gulf Breeze
10 am until 3 pm**

Families are encouraged to attend this hands-on learning event that concentrates on local marine resources. Activities will include: seining, dip netting, cast netting, learning casting skills, touch pools, arts and crafts, a “marine” egg hunt, games, and much more! For more information, or to have a display or activity, contact Chris Verlinde at christinav@co.santa-rosa.fl.us, 850-623-3868 or Debbie Holland at hollanddebbie@bellsouth.net, 850-983-5359.

March 28-29

Resource Ranger Forestry Field trip to Blackwater River State Park.

9 am until 1 pm

Join EECT members and the 5th grade students from East Milton Elementary for a field trip to Blackwater River State Park. Stations will be set up to learn about forestry practices, natural resource management, river ecology, litter prevention and more. Contact Debbie Holland at hollanddebbie@bellsouth.net, or 850-983-5359 to signup to volunteer.

April 11, 12 and 13

A volunteer opportunity (fishing!) with Woodlawn Beach Middle School 7th graders at Shoreline Park, April 11-13. Mr. Della Ratta has received a grant to teach fishing to the entire 7th grade class at Woodlawn Beach Middle School.

Mr. Della Ratta has 3 days of hands-on activities planned in April. If you are willing to help out at Shoreline Park or would like to give a talk to the classes, you will need to fill out the attached volunteer form for the school board. This is standard procedure now in most schools. We will need to mail the volunteer forms to Mr. Della Ratta so they can be processed as soon as possible. If you have questions, or to sign up, please contact Chris Verlinde at christinav@co.santa-rosa.fl.us or 850-623-3868 for more information and the volunteer form.

April 18-19, 2006

Introduction to Stream Restoration Using Natural Channel Design Techniques Pensacola Junior College, Milton Campus

This two-day workshop will introduce principles of fluvial geomorphology - the physical, chemical and biological processes that define stream corridors – for application in restoring impaired stream channels. Participants will learn about stream processes related to channel formation, field assessment techniques, identifying bankful stage, the Rosgen classification system for natural streams, channel evolution, and restoration options for degraded streams. Instructors will emphasize stream conditions specific to the Southeastern United States. Case studies of recently completed stream restoration projects will be presented to demonstrate effective natural stream techniques. Workshop instructors have experience working on more than 45 stream assessments and restoration projects throughout the Southeast. Each participant will receive a reference manual. For more information contact Chris Verlinde at christinav@co.santa-rosa.fl.us or 850-623-3868.

April 17, 20, 25, 26

Resource Ranger field trip to Gulf Islands Naval Live Oaks with Scenic Heights Elem. 3rd graders. Volunteers are needed to help with seining, and other activities. To volunteer with activities contact Eleanor Godwin at godwine@wfrpc.dst.fl.us, or 850-595-8910 ext. 226.

April 22, 2006

Great American Clean-up

Santa Rosa County will take part in the **Great American Clean-up** sponsored by Keep America Beautiful. Representatives from the Santa Rosa Clean Community System will be stationed at the high schools throughout Santa Rosa County from 8 am until noon. Garbage bags will be provided at each location. Participants will pick litter at location of their choice or an assigned location. This is a great way to celebrate Earth Day! For more information contact John Tonkin at the Clean Community System at 850-623-1930.

April 22, 2006

The Blackwater Heritage Trail will host an **Earth Day** event from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This will be a super event and will be a great opportunity to show case earth friendly practices and recreational opportunities in our area. Contact Mike Diano at 850-983-5338, or e-mail at Mike.Diano@dep.state.fl.us.

April 22, 2006

Earth Day Pensacola will take place at Bayview Park in Pensacola. Lots of activities are planned including food and live music. Check out <http://www.earthdaypensacola.org/> for more information.

April 22, 2006

Earth Day at the Zoo in Gulf Breeze. Contact Robin Finkel at rifinkel@southernco.com to participate.

April 22, 2006

Volunteers are needed to help man the **Fl. Sea Grant Clean Boater booth** at the **Pensacola Boat Show** in downtown Pensacola. To sign up for a volunteer shift or for more information contact Andrew Diller at apdiller@ifas.ufl.edu or 850-475-5230.

May 4-5, 2006

Bay Day Environmental Education Event at Gulf Power property on Bayfront Parkway, Pensacola from 9:30 am until 1 pm. State Representative Holly Benson is again promoting an environmental field trip for area sixth grade students. The event has moved to the spring to avoid the hurricane cancellations of the past 2 years, and the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) and its subcommittee, the Environmental Education Coordination Team (EECT), have taken over the organization and administration. Approximately 25 booths staffed by environmental science professionals will entertain and increase student awareness and content knowledge about critical issues such as wetlands, health concerns, water quality, seagrass planting, and environmental engineering. For more information to participate in this event as displayer, volunteer or to bring sixth students to event contact Eleanor Godwin at 595-8910 extension 26, or godwine@wfrpc.dst.fl.us or 850-595-8910 ext. 226.

May 6, 2006

Beach Cleanup at Fort Pickens and Perdido Key. The National Park Service and Escambia County are teaming up for the Boaters and Pedestrians Beach Cleanup at Fort Pickens and for **boaters only** at Perdido Key, Saturday, May 6, 8:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. For more information contact Beckie Mims at (850) 934-2668.

May 20, 2006

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold the annual **Kids Fishing Clinic** May 20. For more information contact the FWCC, marine resources division at <http://myfwc.com/marine/fishingclinics/information.html> or 850- 488-6058.

